

BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION



PO BOX 7420
SHREWSBURY, NJ 07702
TELEPHONE 732-741-4200
FAX 732-741-6549

Minutes of Regular Meeting
Shrewsbury Environmental Commission (EC)
Wednesday, November 12, 2008
Municipal Hall, Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey

Present

Kristina Latimer, Chairperson
Sue Binns, Member
Jill Gwydir, Member
Hermann Allen, Associate Member *
Robin Blair, Associate Member*
Don Burden (Council Liaison*)

Absent

Patrick DiBello, Member (PB Liaison)
Christine Gallagher, Member
Stella Fotopoulos, Member
Patricia Kurdyla, Member
Derek Fisher, Alternate Member #1
Cecilia Kodama, Associate Member *

* Non-voting member

Chairperson Latimer began the meeting at 7:40 p.m., by reading the Pledge of Allegiance and reading the Presiding Officer's statement in compliance with P. L. 1975 c. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act. Roll call was taken by Mrs. Milnes.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER'S MEETING

Due to lack of quorum, October's minutes will be reviewed and voted on at December's meeting, assuming quorum is present.

II. REVIEW OF ZONING AND PLANNING BOARD MEETINGS/SITE PLANS

Planning Board – Dr. DiBello not here to report.

Zoning Board – Plans for LoMedico Auto Shop were reviewed. Without cover letter explaining renovation, EC was unable to ascertain changes. Mrs. Milnes will request additional information from ZB secretary.

Ms. Blair received two letters from borough engineer, Dave Cranmer, regarding two residences which are exceeding maximum allowable impervious cover. EC is happy to read that Mr. Cranmer has recommended property owners to mitigate stormwater runoff using either drywells or rain gardens.

III. NEW AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Recycling Calendar – Ms. Blair is awaiting dates from DPW supervisor Bob Wentway, and expects (and needs) information sooner vs. later. In order for recycling calendar to be included in January's Community Newsletter, calendar must be forwarded to Izzy Grieco no later than Dec. 10.

- B. Solar Panels** – Mrs. Latimer will obtain information on topic from Mrs. Fotopoulos who will be resigning from EC at end of her term (Dec. '08).
- C. SBS Environmental Club and Green Team Report** – According to Ms. Gwydir, Environmental Club for grades 5 – 8 is moving along nicely. Battery drive is underway, and members have written a letter to school superintendent requesting recycling containers be placed in visible spots in Gym for afterschool athletic programs. Plans for the '08/'09 year include education on rain forest deforestation and an environmentally friendly lunch box. Members are going to request additional bike racks and plan a week long walk to school campaign this spring. Ideas are also being discussed about Earth Day/Computer Recycling Day in April. Mrs. Gallagher's Green Team is also progressing nicely. Plans are underway for weighing paper retrieved from each classroom and collecting bottle tops which will be used in making craft projects. Mrs. Gallagher will be meeting with Bob Wentway regarding town wide recycling.
- Ms. Blair shared information on recycling of plastic container tops which are not included in recycling of regular plastic. "Aveda," a hair care manufacturer, is collecting plastic tops which will be recycled and re-used in manufacture of new tops. Ms. Blair will forward additional information to EC and suggests EC collect their own plastic tops and bring them to December's meeting. She will arrange for tops to be sent to "Aveda."
- D. Council Meetings** – Mr. Burden informed EC that through Green Acres, the Bonnanno horse farm will be preserved, meaning there will be no development on this site. Mrs. Kurdyla was not present to report on November 3rd Council meeting.
- E. Rain Gardens** – Mrs. Milnes reported she and Mrs. Kodama have created a broad outline on how to proceed with construction of rain garden at SBS. The ability to obtain outside funding will be critical to success of project. Mrs. Kodama and Mrs. Milnes will prepare letter to EC discussing all aspects of project.
- F. Recycling and Garbage** – Mrs. Latimer spoke with ANJEC regarding haulers who enforce recycling laws. In an ideal world, haulers would not take garbage if recyclable material is included. Mr. Burden will find out when contract is up for current hauler. Perhaps closer scrutiny of garbage can be part of new contract. EC suggests mandatory clear plastic bags. Mrs. Latimer is waiting for more information from ANJEC.
- EC suggests DPW update Recycling Center with more descriptive signs on containers.
- EC also suggests cardboard be included in weekly pick-up, perhaps same day as newspapers. Mrs. Latimer will forward suggestion to Mrs. Gallagher who is meeting with Mr. Wentway next week.
- G. Newsletter** – As mentioned, newsletter material is due December 10th. Mrs. Latimer will submit an article on hazards of rock salt. EC commended Mrs. Fotopoulos on her informative "Back to Tap" article in October Community Newsletter.
- H. 2009 Goals** – Continuing with initiatives began in 2008, EC will work on encouraging rain gardens, increased recycling awareness, a Green Initiative Plan (long term), and addition of fluorescent light bulb disposal at DPW.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Binns made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m., Ms. Gwydir seconded motion.

Susan Milnes, Secretary